

SHELLING, Andrew N.  
Appl. No. 09/913,524  
February 3, 2004

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-25 (canceled).

26 (new). A method of testing to detect whether a human female subject is predisposed to Premature Ovarian Failure (POF), the method comprising at least a step of detecting the nucleotide present at position 769 of the gene encoding inhibin alpha in said subject, wherein the presence of an A at said position is indicative of a predisposition to POF.

27 (new). The method of claim 26, wherein said nucleotide is detected by analysis of DNA.

28 (new). The method of claim 26, wherein said nucleotide is detected by analysis of RNA.

29 (new). The method of claim 26, wherein said nucleotide is detected by nucleotide sequencing.

30 (new). The method of claim 26, wherein said nucleotide is detected by Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) analysis using the restriction enzyme *Bsf711*.

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31 (new). A method of testing to detect whether a human female subject is predisposed to Premature Ovarian Failure (POF), the method comprising at least a step of detecting the amino acid present at position 257 of inhibin alpha, wherein the presence of threonine at said position is indicative of a predisposition to POF.

32 (new). The method of claim 31, wherein said amino acid is detected by amino acid sequencing.